

VINTAGE BAND FESTIVAL

20th Anniversary Commemorative Program



4 DAYS • 30 BANDS

July 30 - August 2, 2026

Northfield, Minnesota



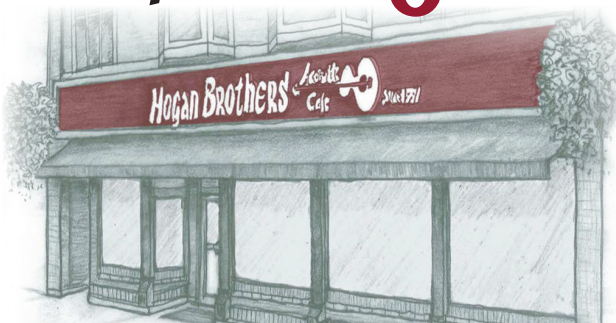
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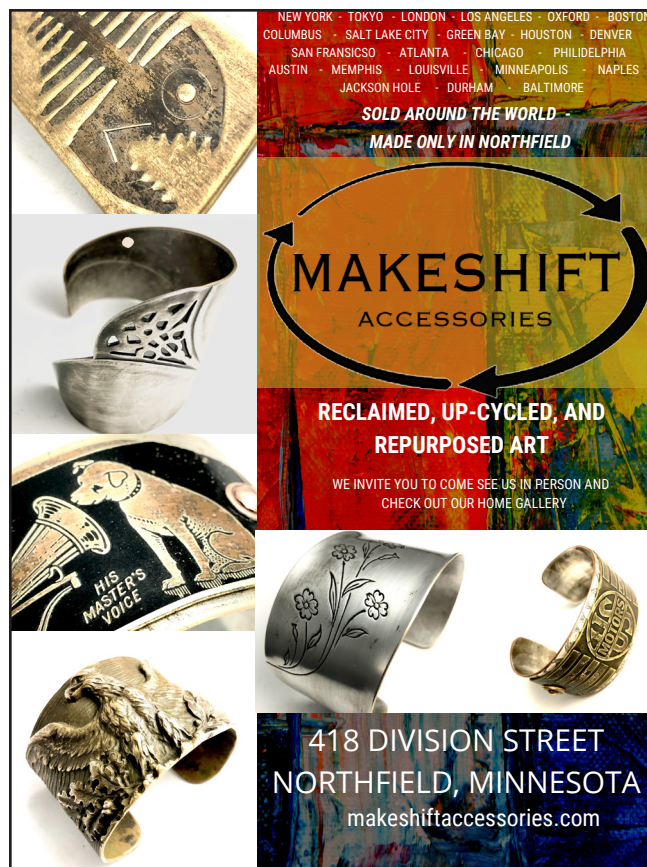
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This program produced at:



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*A Vintage Band
Festival Partner
from the Beginning*

Wear the Pin with Pride!

The most recognizable symbol of this year's Vintage Band Festival is the 20th anniversary brass cloisonné helicon pin. The pin is available at the Bridge Square Information Tent for \$5. Wearing this pin shows that you don't just enjoy the music; you are an important partner in the festival itself. Your financial support brings the bands to the festival and brings the music to us all. Thank you for all the generous support – and wear the pin with pride!



Welcome to the 2026 Vintage Band Festival!

Greetings! Once again we gather in Bridge Square along the banks of the Cannon River to hear wind band music provided by hundreds of talented musicians, including many from other states and some who crossed an ocean to get here! We welcome our European guests, Original Drachenfeller Musikanten from Germany and the Austrian group Moritz & Co. First-time American bands are The Doughboy Foundation's American Expeditionary Forces Headquarters Band and Salsa del Soul. Audiences will recognize a number of our other bands from previous festivals.

What else is new at Vintage Band Festival? We are pleased to present a special program on Friday morning that is a tribute to 250 years of America's democratic republic. "Music and Democracy: Living History in America" begins at 9:45 a.m. in Central Park. See page 20 for a full schedule.

The Battle of the Bands will take place along the Riverwalk on Saturday, starting at noon, and the vintage base ball game is set to begin at 2 p.m. at Carleton College's Bald Spot. For the first time, a fireworks display will close out the day on Saturday! In between these highlights there will be music played all weekend on our outdoor stages, in pubs, restaurants, churches, The Depot, the Northfield Public Library, and up and down Division Street. Enjoy the music!

We continue to be profoundly grateful to our loyal donors, volunteers, musicians, and audiences who have supported us through the years. I hope that you will do a little exploring of beautiful Northfield while you're here and that you will return in the future to explore further.

– Dan Bergeson
President

A Message from the Artistic Director



Paul Niemisto

If you were present in July 2006 for the first Vintage Band Festival ever held, my tribute goes out to you for being a supporter of the VBF for these twenty years. Your enthusiastic response to our presentations is the "secret sauce" that makes us go on and on. Not only is our 20th anniversary a milestone observed this summer, but the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence is an observation that stimulates the tones of our bands as well.

President Dan Bergeson, the energetic members of the Board and I are delighted to welcome you to this Vintage Band Festival. A special welcome goes from us to those of you who are coming for the first time. When you get back home, help spread the word!

Dedicated volunteers have worked hard, but we know that a lot of the success of the Vintage Band Festival is just plain good luck: a combination of compelling history, interesting music, and diverse culture have come together in Northfield to make a magical experience. The many bands traveling in from all over continue to see Vintage Band Festival as a special destination. Vintage Band Festival has trod a large footprint for Minnesota tourism and regional culture. The dream that was in my head in 2006 has certainly expanded to exceed all expectations.

Returning Vintage Band Festival fans, we hope the combination of a quaint and beautiful town, sensitive to its history, with an audience looking for something special and with bands who are dedicated to quality and authenticity, all come together to create wonderful experiences and lasting memories.

Remember that your generous financial support enables our festival to succeed, now and in the future. Please stop by the Vintage Band Festival Information Tent to say hello and make a donation if you can!

– Paul Niemisto
Festival Founder & Artistic Director



WELCOME TO THE MUSIC!

It's been said that the history of a people is found in its songs; we are proud to share a wealth of history through a panoply of songs during this special festival.

Listen to the music and hear the voices of our past come alive. From the traditional village songs of distant lands, to the martial beats that summoned young men to battle, to sizzling New Orleans-influenced jazz, the Vintage Band Festival connects who we were to who we have become.

This year, the music of 30 bands playing more than 50 concerts – often on instruments as old as the music itself – will sound indoors and out, morning through evening, in churches and concert rooms and taverns, on park greens and downtown streets, inviting you to clap your hands, tap your feet – get

up and move! Do it in style: don a top hat or a hoop skirt and enjoy the events with a 19th-century twist. Vintage attire is encouraged throughout the week.

Show off your dance moves in Bridge Square on all three festival evenings. Watch costumed bands compete for applause during the Battle of the Bands on the banks of the Cannon River at noon on Saturday and holler for your favorite. Top it off with a display of fireworks on Saturday night.

The 2026 roster includes a mix of returning bands and first-time participants. There will be music in the air from 4:00 p.m. on Thursday afternoon until 6:00 p.m. Sunday afternoon and it's all free. Welcome to the music!

What Does a Free Festival Cost?

Imagine more than 50 concerts by 30 bands over four days presenting rare and antique music, and it's free to enjoy. Free. Almost all concerts and public events connected with the Vintage Band Festival have free admission, but what does "free" cost?

The truth is that tens of thousands of dollars are spent creating this one-of-a-kind celebration – including hosting the talented performers whose music we come to hear – and we need your help

to make this festival work. We suggest a minimum \$25 donation, but every contribution helps, every dollar keeps the music coming.

A tax-deductible contribution in any amount may be sent to Vintage Band Festival, 204 W. 7th St., #130, Northfield, MN, 55057, online at vintagebandfestival.org or during the concerts! Please partner with us by giving and help keep the music free.

You can also buy a VBF commemorative T-shirt, lapel pin, hat or vintage CD at the Bridge Square Information Tent and support the Festival while also going home with a great souvenir.

This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through grants from the Minnesota State Arts Board and the Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.



VBF HEADQUARTERS:

Before the Festival: 204 W 7th St., #130 • Northfield, MN 55057
vintagebandfestival@gmail.com • VintageBandFestival.org

During the Festival: Information Tent in Bridge Square

Here you'll find:

Commemoratives for sale • Maps and schedules • 2026 Vintage Band Festival pin
Northfield community information • Friendly VBF staff

Land Acknowledgement Statement:

We stand on the homelands of the Wahpekute and other Bands of the Dakota Nation. We honor with gratitude the people who have stewarded the land throughout the generations and their ongoing contributions to this region. We acknowledge the ongoing injustices that we have committed against the Dakota Nation, and we wish to interrupt this legacy, beginning with acts of healing and honest storytelling about this place.

*Adopted by the Northfield City Council,
November 17, 2020*

Mark Your Calendars Now!

Vintage Band Festival holds a smaller one-day festival in the years between the big four-day festivals. The next one-day Vintage Band Festival will be held on Saturday, July 31, 2027.

GETTING ORIENTED

To get the most out of what the festival offers, be sure to look through the official Vintage Band Festival program you're holding now; within these pages you'll find complete concert schedules and locations, a map of Northfield, comprehensive band biographies, and other items of interest. The complete festival schedule is on pp. 24-25. (Make sure to support our advertisers; all are supporting this festival, and we're proud to have them on these pages). You can also find information on our website, vintagebandfestival.org, and on our Facebook page, @VintageBandFestival.

Stop by the Vintage Band Festival Information Tent in Bridge Square, where you'll find friendly and knowledgeable volunteers who will answer your questions and keep you pointed in the right direction. While you're there, pick up an official VBF 2026 T-shirt, hat, lapel pin or vintage CD.

While in Northfield, relax in our many restaurants, and browse our shops and galleries downtown and throughout the area. A 19th century river town, Northfield wears its past well even as it embraces the comforts of the present day. You'll be sure to find some beautiful souvenirs of your visit. We're glad you've come to Northfield and we intend to make your time here memorable!



Beyond the Music...

There's more going on in Northfield than this wonderful festival.

Riverwalk Market Fair: the art of a summer Saturday. Northfield's open-air, European-style market brings artists and art lovers, farmers and foodies to Bridge Square every Saturday morning from 9-1, rain or shine. Details at RiverwalkMarketFair.org.

The Entertainment Guide

..... Local Art, Music, Theater, Events & Happenings

Wondering where to eat, shop and what else to do while in Northfield? Look no further than *The Entertainment Guide*, Northfield's FREE one-stop recreation and information authority. Pick up a print edition at hot spots around town or find a ton of information online at: entertainmentguidemn.com.

Vintage Band Festival BINGO

Win a FREE Pin!
BINGO card and more
details on page 18.



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International Bands



Moritz & Co.

Performances:

Thursday, 2 p.m. – Benedictine Living Community

7:30 p.m. – The Grand Event Center

Friday, 2 p.m. – FiftyNorth

7 p.m. – Armory Square Event Center

Saturday, 5 p.m. – Bridge Square Stage

Sunday, 9:30 a.m. – United Methodist Church

3:30 p.m. – Central Park Stage

In 2020, plans were made to record the polka “Erste Wege” (First Steps), composed by Sebastian Moritz—who was just 12 years old at the time. To bring this project to life, close musician friends from the musical village of Neckenmarkt were invited to a home studio. As it happened, these fellow musicians were also keen to contribute their own compositions and arrangements to the recording sessions. With technical and organizational support from Sebastian’s father, Werner Moritz, the album “Erste Wege” came into being. It was released, and “moritz&co” was born. Since 2021, Moritz & Co. has also been performing live on various stages within the brass music scene. The young group has already made a name for itself at major festivals such as “Woodstock der Blasmusik” and “Brass Palmas” in Croatia. The band specializes in waltzes, polkas, and other Austrian and German dances, as well as folk and drinking songs, played on period 19th century instruments.



Original Drachenfelser Musikanten

Performances:

Thursday, 4 p.m. – Bridge Square Stage

7 p.m. – Loon Liquors

Friday, 2 p.m. – Millstream Commons

7 p.m. – Imminent Brewing

Saturday, 1:30 p.m. – Central Park Stage

7 p.m. – VFW Hall

Sunday, 10:30 a.m. – All Saints Episcopal Church

Direct from Cologne, Germany, is Original Drachenfelser Musikanten, a folk music brass band reflecting the Rhineland tradition of the Drachenfels Mountains. Masters of polka, the band features a tenor horn, trumpet, tuba and accordion. Their leader, tuba player Erhard Schwarz, was at the VBF for the first time in 2010 and is a noted specialist on such exotic instruments as the helicon (an early version of the tuba) and the ophicleide (an even earlier version of the tuba!) Drachenfelser Musikanten has been a regular participant in the Vintage Band Festival in recent years and has a dedicated fan club among the locals of German and Czech traditions in southern Minnesota.



SAVE THE DATE! TUBA CHRISTMAS 2026

Saturday, December 5, 2026
Carleton College • Skinner Chapel

United States Bands



Band Sponsor: Jan Stevens

1st Brigade Band

Website: 1stbrigadeband.org

Performances:

Saturday, 12 p.m. – Downtown Riverwalk (Battle of the Bands)

3 p.m. – Bridge Square Stage

Sunday, 8:30 a.m. – Bethel Lutheran Church

12:30 p.m. – Central Park Stage

The 1st Brigade Band of Wisconsin performs period brass band music from the 1860s on antique instruments. Attired in uniforms and gowns, the band's musicians, color guard, and costumed ladies take you back to that turbulent era known as the Civil War.

The band's history goes back to 1864, when 18 men from the Brodhead Brass Band enlisted in the Union Army and became the 1st Brigade Band, Third Division, 15th Army Corps. The tradition of excellence that these men established more than 150 years ago continues today with the more than 80 members of the reenlisted 1st Brigade Band. Widely varied in age and occupation, they come from many communities, bringing with them a common interest in their musical heritage. During a typical year, they perform for concerts, parades, military balls, and worship services, presenting their educational and entertaining programs. Starting in 1964, band members began to locate and restore the dented and broken instruments that were once used on the battlefield and are now used in performances today.

The 1st Brigade Band is an affiliate of the Wisconsin Historical Society and is supported and sponsored by Heritage Military Music Foundation, Inc., a nonprofit, educational, historical, and patriotic organization. It appeared at Vintage Band Festival in 2010, 2013, 2016, 2019 and 2022.



Band Sponsor: Lee Engquist

Dodworth Saxhorn Band

Website: dodworth.org

Performances:

Friday, 10:45 a.m. – Central Park Stage

Friday, 3 p.m. – Bridge Square Stage

Saturday, 12 p.m. – Downtown Riverwalk (Battle of the Bands)

2:30 p.m. – Central Park Stage

Sunday, 10:30 a.m. – First United Church of Christ

The Dodworth Saxhorn Band is America's premier 19th century brass band, presenting performances in the context of the social and political issues of the time. The band is modeled after the Dodworth Band of New York City, which was the premier brass band in the United States from the 1840s to the 1880s. The modern Dodworth Saxhorn Band uses only brass and percussion instruments that were built in the 1800s to perform 19th century music—including compositions and arrangements from the Smithsonian Institute and the Library of Congress—and a few new arrangements by musicologists who are experts in 19th century brass band style and instrumentation. Past performances include Ken Burns' PBS documentary "Baseball," and a subsequent performance for "An Afternoon of Baseball" at the White House at the invitation of President and Mrs. Clinton. The band was also heard in Ken Burns' series "Jazz" and "The Roosevelts." It appeared at Vintage Band Festival in 2006, 2010, 2013 and 2022.



Band Sponsor: Bonnie Jean Flom & Greg Norman

Doughboy Foundation's American Expeditionary Forces Headquarters Band

Website: doughboy.org/american-expeditionary-forces-aef-headquarters-band-a-tribute-to-sacrifice-and-remembrance/

Performances:

Friday, 11:45 a.m. – Central Park Stage

6 p.m. – Armory Square Event Center

Saturday, 12 p.m. – Downtown Riverwalk (Battle of the Bands)

4 p.m. – Bridge Square Stage

Sunday, 9:00 a.m. – St. Peter's Lutheran Church

The Doughboy Foundation formed to make the National World War I Memorial a reality in Washington, D.C. The memorial was dedicated in 2021, and The American Expeditionary Forces Headquarters Band was created to serve as the official musical ensemble of the National World War I Memorial.

The AEF Headquarters Band recreates the music heard during 1918-1919 at the AEF HQ in Chaumont, France, with the familiar melodies like Over There, Pack Up Your Troubles In Your Old Kit Bag, Keep The Home Fires Burning, K-K-K-Katy, Alexander's Ragtime Band, It's a Long Way To Tipperary and the always-popular marches by John Philip Sousa. The band also performs music written by African American composers James Reese Europe, W.C. Handy, and Eubie Blake. The band wears reproductions of the Doughboy uniforms worn by musicians of the time with the insignia of the AEF HQ on their left shoulder.

The ensemble has become synonymous with honoring the legacy of the Great War, performing renditions of the national anthem and "God Bless America" at major sporting events and ceremonies of national significance. Their repertoire, which seamlessly blends reverence with musical brilliance, serves as a poignant reminder of the enduring legacy of those who served during World War One.

Vintage Band Festival is excited to present the AEF Headquarters Band at VBF 2026. We are honored that they accepted our invitation to help us celebrate our 20th anniversary year and honor the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States of America. The band will perform several times during the festival.



Independent Silver Band

Website: independentsilverband.webs.com

Performances:

Friday, 4 p.m. – Bridge Square Stage

Saturday, 12 p.m. – Downtown Riverwalk (Battle of the Bands)

4:30 p.m. – Central Park Stage

Sunday, 9:00 a.m. – Trinity Lutheran Church

From 1884 to 1889, the prosperous and energetic Illinois community of Mt. Vernon enjoyed the music of its own 10-man Independent Silver Band. The men all attended the same church and they played for town events like balls, picnics, skating parties and political rallies. Fast forward to 2004. William L. Reynolds, a music educator and longtime circus musician, achieved a lifelong dream by assembling the new Independent Silver Band to enlighten the public to American brass music of the 19th and early 20th centuries. The band also performs as the 48th Illinois Volunteers, modeled after an actual regiment from Southern Illinois. The Independent Silver Band appeared at Vintage Band Festival in 2010, 2013, 2016, 2019 and 2022.

PLEASE TAKE OUR SURVEY!

In order to gather feedback on how effective our communication is, who our audience is, and what future improvements could be made to future Vintage Band Festivals, we have created a short survey for you to complete.

The survey has 10 questions and will take only 2 minutes to fill out. Please scan the QR code to access the survey. The survey will be open from July 30 to August 5, 2026.

Thanks for your help!





Band Sponsor: David Clarke

Newberry's Victorian Cornet Band

Website: facebook.com/newberryband

Performances:

Thursday, 6 p.m. – The Grand Event Center

Friday, 5 p.m. – Bridge Square Stage

8 p.m. – Armory Square Event Center

Saturday, 12 p.m. – Downtown Riverwalk (Battle of the Bands)

3:30 p.m. – Central Park Stage

Sunday, 9:30 a.m. – St. John's Lutheran Church

The musicians of Newberry's Victorian Cornet Band are dedicated professional and semi-professional brass, reed, and percussion players whose performance is as close to that of a late 19th-century professional touring band as is possible today. Like bands from that era, the group ranges from six players to a full ensemble of 30. It usually tours with 17 reed, brass and percussion players. The band play only music that would have been heard between the end of the Civil War and the advent of the Sousa Band in 1892, primarily dance music. Concerts feature the most popular examples of polkas, waltzes, quicksteps, schottisches and mazurkas, as well as the march. The band is managed by Michael O'Connor and has appeared at Vintage Band Festival in 2006, 2010, 2013, 2016, 2019 and 2022.



Tom Baker's Mardi Gras Brass

Performance:

Friday, 7 p.m. – VFW Hall, 516 Division Street South

Tom Baker's Mardi Gras Brass is made up of members of the Independent Silver Band. Look forward to a classic Dixieland sound from these guys!

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Minnesota Bands



Ameriikan Poijat

Website: ameriikanpoiijat.org

Performances:

Friday, 2 p.m. – Bridge Square Stage

5 p.m. – Tanzenwald Brewing Co.

Ameriikan Poijat (Boys of America) performs at ethnic festivals, regional tours and music conferences, presenting authentic social dance music and concert repertoire. The repertoire of Ameriikan Poijat is derived directly from original hand manuscript sources found among Finnish bands and archives. Waltzes, schottisches, polkas, mazurkas, polonaises and other social dances are well represented. Ameriikan Poijat has traveled widely in the US and Canada and has appeared at several events, such as Finnfest USA, multiple times. In February 2005, Ameriikan Poijat was invited to perform the entire brass septet repertoire of Jean Sibelius at the International Sibelius Conference, held at the University of North Texas. Ameriikan Poijat has also toured Finland several times.



Bavarian Musikmeisters

Website: musikmeisters.com

Performance:

Sunday, 1 p.m. – Bridge Square Stage

The Bavarian Musikmeisters is a 35-member wind instrument band from the Minneapolis-St. Paul area that has shared the beauty, enjoyment, and history of traditional Germanic band music and culture with people of all ages at festivals, park concerts, senior residences and private parties since 1985. The band is modeled after the traditional village bands found in the German-speaking areas of Europe. The band's attire, instrumentation, and musical arrangements of marches, polkas, waltzes, folk dances, and ballads are all authentic.

Brass Messengers

Website: brassmessengers.com

Performance:

Friday, 8 p.m. – Bridge Square Stage



The Brass Messengers is a Minneapolis street band playing mostly original music inspired by global sources. The Messengers formed from the annual rubble of the Heart of the Beast Mayday Parade and Ceremony in

Minneapolis. The musical origins were found in the music of Africa, the Caribbean, and the Balkans, but now the band plays whatever works, throwing in a country song to the crying drinkers, a high-speed polka or two for the Midwest dancers, running in circles with the little ones, activating gatherings of its activist kin or a bit of Black Sabbath for the metal crowd. But mostly, it is an original music that rises from the heart of the band that can only be described as a homegrown Minneapolis street music sound. The Messengers play stages large and small and have been part of the HONK community for many years.

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Brian Boru Irish Pipe Band

Website: brianborupipeband.com

Performance:

Sunday, 2 p.m. – Bridge Square Stage

The Brian Boru Irish Pipe Band from St. Paul, Minnesota, was established in 1962 to preserve and advance Celtic piping, drumming and dancing. Over the years the Brian Boru Band has become a fixture in parades, celebrations, dances, and an increasing number of private festivities. It plays for local, regional and national events, adding a sense of tradition and a spirit of pageantry to every program in which it participates. Its distinctive Irish uniforms—the saffron kilt, black tunic and black caubeen (beret) with green or red plumes—are modeled after traditional Irish pipe bands. Some of the music the band plays comes out of that fierce era of Ireland's past. Other pieces are more modern, and many are much, much older—ancient reels and airs, timeless ballads and war marches, and lively, lighthearted jigs.



Brio Brass

Website: briobras.com

Performance:

Sunday, 4 p.m. – Bridge Square Stage

Brio Brass has delighted and entertained audiences throughout Minnesota's Twin Cities metro area since 1999. Composed of more than 60 adult musicians, the group performs its own unique arrangements written specifically for its members. The ensemble's large repertoire features a broad spectrum of musical styles. Audiences are entertained with fluid ballads, pop or all eras, showtunes, funky rock and lots of jazz. All the music that Brio Brass plays has been composed or arranged by the director, Rick Rueckert. He's written more than 200 arrangements and compositions. Expect lots of humming, toe tapping and even dancing in the aisles!

Century Brass

Website: centurybrass.org

Performance:

Sunday, 1:30 p.m. – Central Park Stage



Century Brass performs music from a wide range of musical styles. The traditional brass quintet includes two trumpets, French horn, trombone, and tuba (or bass trombone). Century Brass can expand from a brass quintet to a brass band that

recreates/shows the wonderful musical wealth of the 19th century brass band for the edification and amusement of the modern audience. The Century Brass Band can provide live music to accompany 19th century dances such as waltzes, polkas, schottisches, quicksteps, reels, and quadrilles.





Dirty Shorts Brass Band

Website: dirtyshortsbrassband.com

Performance:

Saturday, 12:30 p.m. – Central Park Stage

The Dirty Shorts Brass Band is a Twin Cities-based New Orleans-style jazz band. Its 10 musicians have played together in this and many other bands for many years, in some cases as far back as the late 1960s. New Orleans-style jazz is a blend of jazz, blues, and Dixie, with a strong beat and a street corner feel. Dirty Shorts has been together since 2010 for the pure joy of performing in front of live audiences everywhere. Venues over the years have included numerous city parks, county fairs, the Minnesota State Fair (several times on the International Bazaar stage), the St. Paul Winter Carnival, churches, fundraisers, weddings, funerals and private events.



Jack Brass Band

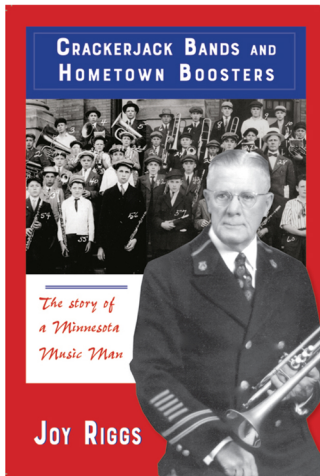
Website: jackbrassband.com

Performance:

Saturday, 11 a.m. – Bridge Square Stage

Based on the traditions of New Orleans brass bands, the Jack Brass Band is an ambassador of the Crescent City's rich musical history. The eight-piece band plays "Feel-Good Music" for audiences of any age and any occasion. JBB has the ability and repertoire to play everything from old New Orleans jazz from Louis Armstrong's era to the modern street Mardi Gras anthems with the instrumentation, feel and energy they have mastered through countless gigs, parades, festival appearances and trips to New Orleans to listen, learn and play alongside the masters.

Praise for CRACKERJACK BANDS AND HOMETOWN BOOSTERS by Northfield author Joy Riggs



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July 29	7pm	Randolph
July 30	7pm	Nerstrand
July 31	2pm & 5pm	Northfield
August 1	3pm	Owatonna
August 2	3pm	New Prague



Visit AmeriikanPoijat.org for more information



K-Libre24

Website: [instagram.com/K-libre24](https://www.instagram.com/K-libre24)

Performance:

Thursday, 6:30 p.m. – Bridge Square Stage

K-Libre24 is a Twin Cities-based, 11-piece Latin orchestra performing various styles of dance music from the Spanish-speaking regions of the Caribbean, such as salsa, merengue, cumbia and bachata. K-Libre24 was formed with the purpose of providing great dance music. Members of K-Libre24 represent some of the finest musicians in the Twin Cities Latin music community. K-Libre24 performs at restaurants, bars, Latin festivals, private engagements, and other events in Minnesota and other states. This is their second appearance at Vintage Band Festival.



La Clave Orchestra

Website: [facebook.com/laclaveorchestra](https://www.facebook.com/laclaveorchestra)

Performance:

Friday, 6:30 p.m. – Bridge Square Stage

La Clave Orchestra is a Twin Cities-based, 6- to 12-piece band that brings music from the Latin-American/Spanish speaking regions. Established with the drive to provide great music for Twin Cities-area salsa fans, the musicians of La Clave Orchestra perform many styles of music including salsa, montuno, guaguanco, and cumbia. La Clave Orchestra performs locally at several venues, Latin festivals, private events and other locations. This is the band's second appearance at Vintage Band Festival.



Lake Wobegon© Brass Band

Website: lwbb.org

Performance:

Sunday, 12 p.m. – Bridge Square Stage

The Lake Wobegon© Brass Band is a British-style brass band from Anoka. The British style is a tradition noted for its characteristic dark, mellow tone. The name Lake Wobegon© comes from Garrison Keillor's radio show, A Prairie Home Companion, and was allowed on the stipulation that the band perform at a picnic sometime for Keillor. The ensemble gives concerts throughout Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa and the Dakotas and has toured in Great Britain. The band is led by Dr. Matthew George and is a Vintage Band Festival veteran performer.

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McNasty Brass Band

Website: mcnastybrassband.com

Performance:

Thursday, 8 p.m. – Bridge Square Stage

McNasty Brass Band is a collection of Minneapolis/St. Paul-based horn players and percussionists who fuse the Minnesota metropolitan sound with the spirit of New Orleans. The outcome of this fusion is hard-hitting dance music and high-energy live shows. Each player works tirelessly outside McNasty Brass Band as a side man, some with national and international touring acts. That's what makes McNasty special—these youthful but experienced side men come together and showcase their compositions, solos, group vocals and stage presence as front men. "McNasty Brass Band is a perfect example of why you shouldn't make fun of the kid who is super into trumpet in 5th grade" (twincitiesmedia.net). Their recordings King Size Life and MNBB encapsulate their live energy with exciting compositions, rowdy gang vocals and rip-roaring solos. The only thing missing is their dance moves!



Minnesota Jazz Orchestra

Website: mjobigband.com

Performance:

Saturday, 8:30 p.m. – Bridge Square Stage

Minnesota Jazz Orchestra plays full and passionate swing music that will make you want to dance all night! The big band features 16 fantastic musicians along with local top vocalists. It plays true classic swing—the stuff that kids from 7 to 77 can't get enough of. It's the music that made Glenn Miller, Tommy Dorsey, Count Basie and others famous. Members of the ensemble have toured with top military bands and have taught in schools and universities, and the band was named the top big band in the five-state area. The band plays regularly at the Wabasha Street Caves and can often be heard during the weekly Big Band show on KBEM Radio 88.5 FM.



Minnesota State Band

Website: minnesotastateband.org

Performance:

Saturday, 2 p.m. – Bridge Square Stage

The Minnesota State Band is the official band of the State of Minnesota and has existed for more than 125 years (since 1898). It is the only remaining state band in the United States. The band operates as a nonprofit with an all-volunteer membership and has represented the State of Minnesota on six International Goodwill Tours since 1986. While international travel is important, the band's primary mission is providing high quality music to the residents of Minnesota.

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New Prague Area Community Band

Website: npacb.com

Performance:

Saturday, 9 a.m. – Bridge Square Stage

The New Prague Area Community Band is a dynamic, non-profit organization of volunteer musicians who share a love for playing music that entertains diverse audiences. Its members range from high school students to grandparents, united in their passion for making music that's enjoyable for all. The New Prague Area Community Band has performed at every Vintage Band Festival since 2006. Rush Wagner is the director.



Salsa del Soul

Website: salsadelsoul.com

Performance:

Saturday, 6:30 p.m. – Bridge Square Stage

Salsa del Soul is a Twin Cities-based, nine-piece orchestra performing various styles of dance music from the Spanish-speaking regions of the Caribbean. Salsa del Soul was formed with the purpose of providing great dance music for Twin Cities Salsa fans. The musicians of Salsa del Soul represent some of the finest talents in the Twin Cities Latin music scene. The styles of music they perform include Son, Son Montuno, Plena, Cha-cha-cha, Bachata, Merengue, Timba, and, of course, Salsa! Salsa del Soul performs locally at restaurants and bars, jazz and Latin festivals, private engagements, and other locations and events around the Twin Cities and the Midwest. This is its first appearance at Vintage Band Festival!



RAVE Brass

Performance:

Saturday, 2 p.m. – The Bald Spot at Carleton College, Vintage Base Ball Game

RAVE Brass ensemble was formed by members of the Rosemount Community Band to provide music for holiday events. In 2020, when larger bands were forced into hiatus, RAVE Brass moved rehearsals outdoors and held outdoor performances throughout the summer and fall for residents of senior living centers in the Rosemount and Apple Valley area while they were on their balconies or patios. RAVE Brass continues to play a wide variety of music throughout the year at both indoor and outdoor city venues, senior living centers, area churches, and at civic festivals and events. RAVE is an acronym for the cities of residence of its members—Rosemount, Apple Valley and Eagan.



Sheldon Theatre Brass Band

Website: stbb.org

Performance:

Saturday, 10 a.m. – Bridge Square Stage

The Sheldon Theatre Brass Band was founded in 1989 as the resident performing ensemble at the restored, turn-of-the-century T. B. Sheldon Theatre in Red Wing. The band is made up of cornets, trombones, tenor horns, euphoniums, tubas and percussion. It uses the instrumentation of the traditional British brass band and plays a variety of musical styles including original pieces for brass and percussion, marches, orchestral transcriptions, and unique arrangements for brass. In addition to regular performances at the Sheldon Theatre, the band performs at a variety of venues throughout Minnesota and western Wisconsin and has performed at many brass band festivals throughout the United States, including NABBA Great American Brass Band Festival. The band has performed at every Vintage Band Festival since 2006. Jim Kurschner is the director.



Southside Aces

Website: southsideaces.com

Performance:

Sunday, 5 p.m. – Bridge Square Stage

The Southside Aces perform traditional New Orleans jazz. The six-member band began as the brainchild of clarinetist Tony Balluff and sousaphone player Erik Jacobson. The Aces possess a diverse repertoire, with a roll call that includes the names of Louis Armstrong, Jelly Roll Morton, Hoagy Carmichael, Duke Ellington and Bix Beiderbecke. The Southside Aces have performed at the Dakota Jazz Club, Crooners Supper Club, Twin Cities Jazz Fest, and the Minnesota Orchestra Sommerfest. The band has also played events in Chicago, Denver, and Des Moines. They are appearing for the fourth time at Vintage Band Festival.

The Alphorns

Performances:

**Friday & Saturday,
12-6pm
Up and Down
Division Street**

On a typical beautiful evening during spring, summer or fall, Ralph and Mary Brindle can be found playing alphorns somewhere...at home, at local parks, in the BWCA, in the mountains, even out in the snow while snowshoeing! Mary and Ralph play for outdoor weddings, Swiss Independence celebrations, and special occasions upon request. Active musicians with a variety of musical groups in the Twin Cities, Ralph and Mary began playing alphorn in 2004 and are excited to bring some alphorn serendipity to the Vintage Band Festival! They will be wandering up and down Division Street during Vintage Band Festival weekend.



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The Freier Department

Website: ethanfreiermusic.com

Performance:

Thursday, 5 p.m. – Bridge Square Stage

The Freier Department is a seven-piece band that effortlessly plays nasty funk, swingin' jazz, and driving Latin music. Ethan Freier, leader and trombonist, has been a band director in Northfield for 25 years while continuing a busy freelance schedule in the Twin Cities. In the Freier Department, he is joined in the horn section by Rich Manik on saxophone and Bob Case on trumpet. These are horn players who can blow! The amazing rhythm section of Bill Chouinard on bass, Northfield resident Steve Jennings on drums, Chris Olson on guitar and Ted Godbout on keys will keep the grooves deep and the jazz smokin'. Freier's arrangements of classic funk and jazz tunes are fresh and exciting. The Freier Department will also perform some of Freier's original compositions, which can be heard on their 2021 album "Dysfunktion."



Twin Cities Trumpet Ensemble

Website: tctrumpets.org

Performance:

Sunday, 3 p.m. – Bridge Square Stage

There is only one regularly performing 24-trumpet musical ensemble in the United States, and it has its home in the Twin Cities! The Twin Cities Trumpet Ensemble (TCTE) was founded in 2014 by a trio of trumpeters who decided to invite others to join them for trumpet playing and camaraderie. Since its inception in 2014, TCTE has had over 100 players in its ranks and has played well over 100 performances. The ensemble has performed 226 works encompassing music from the Renaissance to the present. In 2021, TCTE released its first CD album, "Soundings." Under the direction of James Olcott and with an impressive repertoire, TCTE has given numerous successful performances and is in demand for appearances around the region. The ensemble is augmented by percussion/timpani and occasional low brass.



Twin Cities Brass Band

Website: twincitiesbrassband.com

Performance:

Sunday, 2:30 p.m. – Central Park Stage

Twin Cities Brass Band is an English-style brass band based in the heart of Minnesota. Founded in 2016 by former Artistic Director Adam Hille, TCBB has grown from a small ensemble of UM-Duluth classmates to a full band of talented musicians from across the Twin Cities metro area. The band presents a series of concerts throughout the year featuring a variety of musical styles—traditional brass band literature, pops, classical, jazz, and more—always striving to bring the grandeur and virtuosity of brass band music to audiences of all ages and backgrounds.



WindWorks Quintet

Performances:

Friday, 11 a.m. – Northfield Public Library

3 p.m. – Northfield Public Library

WindWorks Quintet is a Northfield and Twin Cities area professional woodwind quintet that was founded in 1993. The group's goal is to promote woodwind quintet music, as well as instrumental chamber music of all kinds, by performing recitals throughout the Twin Cities metropolitan area, greater Minnesota and surrounding states. WindWorks Quintet was formerly known as The North Winds and has made multiple appearances at Vintage Band Festival.

Music and Democracy: Living History in America



Imnizaska Drum Group

Performance:

Friday, 10 a.m. – Central Park Stage

Imnizaska Drum Group is a vibrant, intertribal drum collective deeply rooted in cultural preservation and education. They not only perform at public events like powwows, festivals and the State Fair, but they're also making an impact through school and community programs — teaching history, musical technique, and traditional values. Their efforts foster unity, intergenerational connection, and cultural awareness across Minnesota and beyond.

“Imnizaska” means “white bluffs” in the Dakota language and it refers to the bluffs along the banks of the Mississippi River in east St Paul. Wicahapi Regional Park is on the top of the bluffs and is an indigenous burial ground. The St. Paul neighborhood has been known as Dayton's Bluff since the arrival of European immigrants in the 19th century and the park was previously known as Indian Mounds Regional Park.



Brass Solidarity

Website: brasssolidarity.com

Performance:

Friday, 1:30 p.m. – Central Park Stage

Brass Solidarity is built out of the tradition of resilience and community fortitude through music. They have been playing music in public spaces and on the streets of Minneapolis since 2020.

Brass Solidarity is a convergence of musicians, activists, and community members using our sound as a voice for justice and an advocate for Black Lives. We were birthed from the movement for Black Liberation in George Floyd Square, meeting weekly as a continuous offering to the community. Our music is by the people and for the people as a passionate campaign to spread love and uplift BIPOC communities.

Brass Solidarity seeks to build a repertoire of songs that can contribute to movement spaces, events and actions for Justice in coordination with movement leadership.

Our musicians work for justice, not money. Stipends and donations we receive go directly into our work.





MINNESOTA
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AT ITS BEST

Riverwalk Market Fair
Saturdays thru October 31

**Rice County
Steam & Gas Show**
August 29 & 30

**Defeat of Jesse
James Days**
September 9-13

**Governor's Pheasant
Hunt Opener**
October 9 & 10

Winter Walk
December 10

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USED & VINTAGE in DOWNTOWN NORTHFIELD



5 Antiques of Northfield
Antiques & Collectibles
416 Division St S

**Antiques
of Northfield**

1 Bearded Mermaid
Vintage Clothing
309 Division St S



2 The Boho Peacock
New, Used & Vintage Clothing
313 Division St S



8 Clothes Closet
Used & Vintage Clothing
600 Water St S



6 Fate Vintage
Antiques, Collectibles & Clothing
411 Division St S



4 Marketplace @ 416
Vintage Collectibles & Clothing
416 Grastvedt Ln



7 The Thrifty Parrot
Consignment Clothing & Crystals
507 Water St S



3 Vintage etc.
Antiques, Collectibles & Clothing
311 Division St S



9 Used-A-Bit Shoppe
Used & Vintage Household Goods
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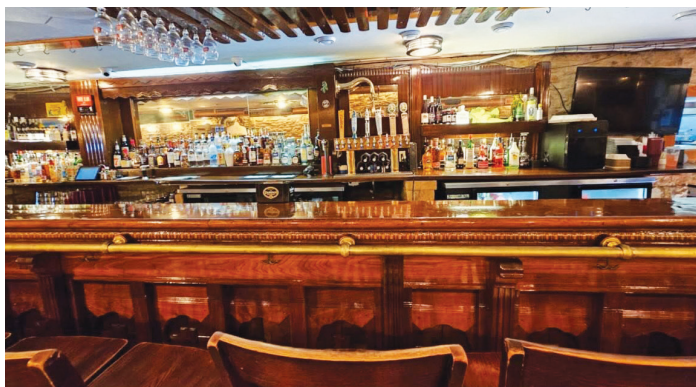
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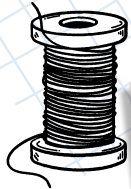
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The Foundation of Life



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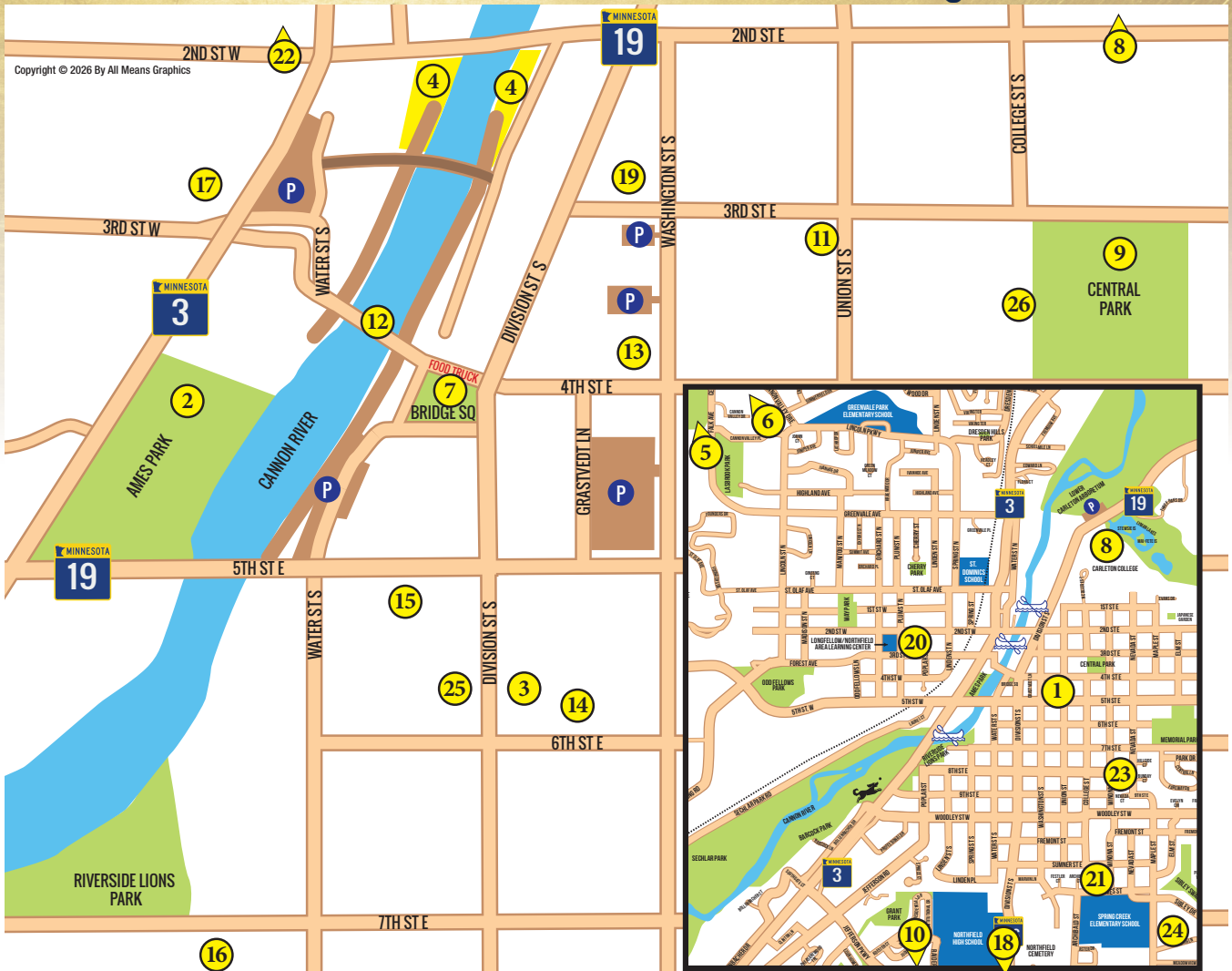
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NORTHFIELD V&B F EVENTS MAP



- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| ① All Saints Episcopal Church | ⑭ Imminent Brewing |
| ② Ames Park – Fireworks | ⑮ Loon Liquors |
| ③ Armory Square Event Center | ⑯ Millstream Commons |
| ④ Battle of the Bands | ⑰ Northfield Depot |
| ⑤ Benedictine Living Community | ⑱ Northfield Middle School |
| ⑥ Bethel Lutheran Church | ⑲ Northfield Public Library |
| ⑦ Bridge Square/Information Tent | ⑳ St. John's Lutheran Church |
| ⑧ Carleton College – Bald Spot | ㉑ St. Peter's Lutheran Church |
| ⑨ Central Park Stage | ㉒ Tanzenwald Brewing Co. |
| ⑩ FiftyNorth | ㉓ Trinity Lutheran Church |
| ⑪ First United Church of Christ | ㉔ United Methodist Church |
| ⑫ Fourth Street Bridge | ㉕ VFW Post 4393 |
| ⑬ Grand Event Center | ⑧ Vintage Baseball Game |
| | ㉖ Weitz Center for Creativity |

 Riverwalk

Food Vendors During Vintage Band Festival:

**Estrada Catering • Maui Wowie
Delicious Pupusas • Udder Buddies
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will be located on 4th Street
north of Bridge Square or in Central Park.

On Saturday, during **Riverwalk Market Fair**,
you can also find a number of food local
vendors in Bridge Square.

Or visit any of the wonderful restaurants
around Northfield!

VINTAGE BAND FESTIVAL

B I N G O

Antiques of Northfield	Bearded Mermaid	The Boho Peacock	Clothes Closet	Cakewalk
Fate Vintage	The Goat	Makeshift Accessories	Marketplace 416	Tin Tea
The Thrifty Parrot	Vintage etc.		Used-a-Bit Shoppe	Verbena Vinyl
Bread People	Reproduction Fabrics	Northfield History Center	Homebody Refills	Rare Pair
Fine Fettle	Cottage Tearoom	HideAway	Monarch	Goodbye Blue Monday

Visit Historic Northfield, Shop Vintage All Weekend!

Little Joy Coffee	Content/ Northfield Yarn	Hogan Brothers	Reunion	Northfield Olive Oil & Vinegar
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Antiques of Northfield

416 Division St S
Antiques and Collectibles

Bearded Mermaid

309 Division St S
Vintage Clothing

The Boho Peacock

313 Division St S
New, Used & Vintage Clothing & Accessories

Bread People

410 Division St S
Location of the Oldest Bakery in MN

Cakewalk

303 Division St S
Excellent Cupcakes and Pastries

Clothes Closet

600 Water St S
Used & Vintage Clothing & Accessories

Content Bookstore / Northfield Yarn

314 Division St S
Vintage Hobbies • Two Stores – One Stop

Cottage Tearoom

13 Bridge Square
Treats Served in a Vintage Setting

Fate Vintage

411 Division St S
Antiques, Collectibles & Clothing

Fine Fettle

16 Bridge Square
Apothecary, Bath & Body, Gift Shop

The Goat

413 Division St S
Vintage Goods, Art, Kitchenware & Jewelry

Goodbye Blue Monday

319 Division St S
Vintage Coffee Shop

The HideAway Coffeehouse

421 Division St S
Excellent Bistro in the Historic Opera House

Hogan Brothers

415 Division St S
Sandwiches, Ice Cream & Beverages

Homebody Refills

220 Division St S
Refillable Cleaning Products and Personal Care Goods

Little Joy

300 Division St S
Viral Coffee Shop with a Patio View of the River

Makeshift Accessories

418 Division St S
Accessories Made from Reclaimed Materials

Marketplace 416

416 Grastvedt Ln
Vintage Collectibles & Clothing

Monarch

405 Division St S
Gift Shop

Northfield History Center

408 Division St S
Site of the Bank Raid • Recently Restored Building

Northfield Olive Oil & Vinegar

18 Bridge Square
Ancient Condiments in a Historic Building

The Rare Pair

401 Division St S
Shoes & Clothing in a historic building

Reproduction Fabrics

105 4th St E Unit 205
Historically Accurate Textiles

Reunion

501 Division St S
Beautifully Renovated, Historic Building

The Thrifty Parrot

507 Water St S
Consignment Clothing & Crystals

Tin Tea

420 Division St S
Bubble Tea & Vietnamese Coffee & Food

Used - A - Bit

624 Water St S
Used & Vintage Household Goods

Vintage etc.

311 Division St S
Antiques, Collectibles & Clothing

Verbena Vinyl

419 Division St S
New, Used & Vintage Records

How it Works



This is a self-guided tour of the shops in Historic Northfield.

Have the shop attendants sign or stamp your card when you visit.

Collect a BINGO and return this card to the Vintage Band Festival Tent for a FREE 20th Anniversary pin.

Twenty Years of Festivals and counting!

It's challenging to choose a favorite festival moment—it could be the lively performance by Kenny Carr and his trombone shout band in 2010 that got people dancing around Bridge Square; the 1st Brigade Band's somber tribute in 2013 to the First Minnesota Infantry Regiment at the Colvill Memorial in Cannon Falls; or maybe it's a serendipitous mini concert on Division Street by the Alphorns that you're about to enjoy this weekend. Whether you've attended multiple festivals during the past 20 years or are enjoying your first one, the Vintage Band Festival Board is pleased to bring you another full lineup of high-quality music experiences.

The joy of live brass band music has continued to bring musicians and attendees back to Northfield year after year—despite the occasional challenges, like high temps and excessive humidity, wildfire smoke, and a COVID-19 pandemic—while also attracting new audiences and bands. Here's a look back at how the festival has grown and evolved:

2006: The first VBF featured 21 bands, including one from Germany, performing 50 concerts in locations all over town. Concertgoers also dressed up in costume to attend two evenings of 19th century Victorian social dancing at the Northfield Armory and attended a vintage base ball game, played on St. Olaf's Old Main Green (base ball is back again this year, this time at the Carleton College Bald Spot; look for more information on p. 21).

The 2006 Festival also served as the host site for the joint academic conference of the International Society for the Promotion and Research of Wind Music and the Historic Brass Society. The resulting synergy with VBF was so successful, the Historic Brass Society has repeatedly returned to Northfield to host its Early Brass Festival (for details of this year's conference, see p. 23; all the lectures are free and open to VBF audiences).

2010: Encouraged by the response to the first festival, founder and artistic director Paul Niemisto gathered volunteer and business support to hold another four-day festival. The number of participating bands expanded to 25, including two from Europe, and the number of concerts increased to just shy of 100. The definition of what is "vintage" also expanded—beyond costumed band members playing antique instruments—to include more ethnic styles and other genres that are part of the wind and brass family of sounds.

2013: The number of participating bands increased to 30 bands, including four international bands (representing Austria, Sweden and Germany), performing more than 140 concerts in all. This was the first year of the ongoing collaboration between VBF and the Riverwalk Market Fair (the market fair runs Saturday in Bridge Square from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.).

2016: This 10-year anniversary festival featured 30 bands and special events like lunch and learn sessions, a 1917 Vaudeville Show and War Bond Rally, and a World War 11 Victory Swing Dance.

2019: A record 45 bands participated in 2019, including bands from Belgium, Germany and Finland. Base ball returned to the St. Olaf Old Main Green, and veterans were honored at two different cemetery concerts in Northfield and Cannon Falls.

2022: No international bands were able to participate, as the world was still recovering from the pandemic, but VBF hosted a full four-day festival with 33 national and Minnesota bands. It also held a popular Latin Rhythm Night featuring three back-to-back concerts by Latin-style bands playing mariachi, banda, and salsa music.

2014, 2015, 2017, 2018, 2023, and 2025: These one-day festivals featuring Minnesota bands provided the VBF Board with an opportunity to fundraise for the next big festival while also meeting the demand by audiences and musicians alike to keep the music going during the off-years. The VBF has continued to put on a one-day festival in the years it's not hosting a four-day festival—except for in 2020, when the COVID-19 pandemic made it impossible to gather safely, and 2024, when VBF board members got ambitious and experimented with a 1 ½-day festival.

That brings us to **2026**, which marks the 20th anniversary of the first festival and the 250th birthday of the United States. This year's four-day event features 30 bands, including two international bands, and it includes a special program on Friday morning in Central Park called Music and Democracy: Living History in America (see p. 20 for details) and fireworks on Saturday evening over Ames Park.

The VBF Board is grateful that you have chosen to join us this year. Please take a few minutes during the festival to fill out our online survey (see p. 6) or to obtain a paper survey from the VBF info tent. We take your comments seriously; they help us improve the festival and they help us with applications for grants that support future festivals. We look forward to seeing how the event continues to evolve in the next twenty years!

– Joy Riggs



Music and Democracy: Living History in America

July 31

Friday morning, July 31, Vintage Band Festival will present a multi-media program titled “Music and Democracy: Living History in America” in Northfield’s Central Park. The United States is 250 years old and the music of the nation has changed often during those years. The program will chronicle highlights of those historical and musical eras. It will include spoken word actors including Theodore Roosevelt, reenactor brass bands in period dress, a Dakota drum group and singers, and a folksinging duo.

Other concurrent activities during the event include food and drink vendors, non-profit organizations tabling to educate, inform and recruit visitors, a face-painting and make-your-own art booth and an all-ages bicycle parade around the park.

This is a free and family-friendly event. Children who wish to participate in the bicycle parade are invited to decorate their bikes prior to the event. Decorating supplies will be provided.

Music and Democracy Schedule

- 9:45 a.m.** Greetings and setting the stage
VFW Color Guard/Thomas Jefferson
Declaration of Independence
- 10:00 a.m.** Imnizaska Drum Group:
Intertribal Mni Sota Makoce Collective
- 10:30 a.m.** Abraham Lincoln
Gettysburg address
- 10:45 a.m.** Dodworth Saxhorn Band:
Civil War and Post Civil War music
- 11:15 a.m.** Theodore Roosevelt
The Progressive Era
- 11:30 a.m.** Anna Dickinson
Northfield Suffragist Singers:
The Women’s Right to Vote Movement in song
- 11:45 a.m.** American Expeditionary Forces
Headquarters Band:
Music of World War I and
early 20th century America
- 12:15 p.m.** Helen Forsythe and Cliff Martin:
Songs of the Dustbowl years;
labor struggles; civil rights struggles
- 12:45 p.m.** Reflections on 2026 America
- 1:00 p.m.** All-ages bike parade around Central Park
Linda Wasner will lead the parade
on her vintage velocipede
- 1:30 p.m.** Brass Solidarity: Music for the Movement
- 2:00 p.m.** Music and Democracy closes



Imnizaska Drum Group



Helen Forsythe



Brass Solidarity

vintagebandfestival.org/music-and-democracy-living-history-in-america.

Battle of the Bands • August 1

For soldiers in the American Civil War, music was one of the primary forms of entertainment and regimental esprit. The music was sometimes in song, sometimes instrumental and often both. After sundown in the aftermath of a battle, if opposing forces were camped in close proximity to each other, one band would strike up a tune and when it finished, the band on the other side would answer with a tune of its own. It was a whole more relaxing than shooting at each other! This could go on at length and would only end when one of the bands decided to get some sleep.

It is a Vintage Band Festival tradition to replicate this communal sharing of tunes beside the Cannon River. In 2026 five bands will

participate in the exchange, three on one side of the river and two on the other. Each band will play a tune of its choosing and pass the baton to the next band in a round robin routine. Depending on the length of the tunes, this may result in each band playing three tunes or possibly just two.

The five bands will be: the Dodworth Saxhorn Band, the Independent Silver Band, the American Expeditionary Forces Headquarters Band, Newberry's Victorian Cornet Band, and the 1st Brigade Band. This delightful spectacle will take place Saturday, August 1, at 12 p.m. on the Downtown Riverwalk between the pedestrian bridge and the 2nd St. bridge. Don't miss it!



Vintage Baseball • August 1

Come thrill to the crack of the bat and give it some ginger at a vintage base ball game; just leave the foul language at home – and look out for the daisy cutters. Watch the St. Croix Base Ball Club take on the Rochester Roosters in historic costume and with the original 1864 rules, also known as “The New York Game.”

The original rules demanded, among other things, the highest manners from players and spectators alike. Truly America's sport, baseball began during the Civil War as young men looked to fill the interminable time between battles, and the game caught on like wildfire when the soldiers brought it home with them after the war. The game was full of colorful jargon: a bat was called “a willow” and the fans were called “cranks.” Pitchers were “hurlers” and batters were “strickers.” The rules challenge the contemporary die-hard: no gloves, no catching equipment, no pitching mound, the hurler throws the ball underhand, batters are out if the ball is caught in the air or after a single hop, and only one ball is used for the entire game.

Today there are 400 active clubs in the Vintage Base Ball Association. There is an annual two-day festival in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania where 24 teams play 48 games on five ball fields. For many years Northfield fielded a team known as The Silver Stars, but time and other diversions have taken their toll on the team.

The Northfield game will be played on The Bald Spot at Carleton College and the game will begin at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, August 1, 2026. The Bald Spot is directly north of Skinner Memorial Chapel, 405 1st St. E. Due to ongoing construction, the best place to enter the campus is at the Winona St. and 1st St. E. intersection.

Music for the afternoon will be provided by RAVE Brass, a veteran Vintage Band Festival performer.

Bring your own chair or blanket.

Vintage Tricycle Rides Again

When Lloyd and Mayvis Harkness bought a house next to Northfield's Way Park in 1962, it came with an unexpected amenity: a turn-of-the-last century velocipede tricycle stored in the attic.

Linda Wasner said she and her five siblings would take turns riding the 1890s-era tricycle around their full-story, walk-up attic, and they would take it out for spins up and down St. Olaf Avenue. Their dad even rode in it a Defeat of Jesse James Days parade years ago, with a sign advertising his business, Lloyd's Floor Service.

When Lloyd passed away in 2017, more than 20 years after Mayvis died, Linda said her siblings proposed selling the velocipede in an estate sale as they prepared to sell the house. But she objected.

"I said, 'you can't put fifty dollars on that!' They said, 'then you take it and put it in your barn.' So that's where it sits until I find a better place," she said. "I have a barn that's a wedding venue. People are able to see the velocipede and enjoy it, and sometimes they ride it down the center aisle."

Linda will give even more people the chance to see the velocipede during the 2026 Vintage Band Festival parade on Friday, July 31. As grand marshal, she will lead the two-lap parade around Central Park at 1 p.m. Children of all ages are invited to come to the park to decorate their bicycles, tricycles, strollers, and scooters (with supplies provided by VBF) beginning at noon.



How the velocipede ended up in the attic remains a mystery. Linda said her parents bought the house from the Storsteen sisters, and a plate attached to the velocipede notes that it was manufactured by the Fay Tricycle and Invalid Chair Company of Elyria, Ohio.

The company was founded in 1885 by Winslow L. Fay, and its original products included the Fairy Tricycle. It was sold and renamed a few times before Fred Colson bought it in 1917 and changed the name to the Colson Company, according to colson-caster.com.

According to census and city directory records, Anna Dorthea Storsteen moved to Northfield from northwestern Iowa with her children sometime between 1911, when her husband, Mathias, died, and 1920. The family had emigrated from Norway in the late 1880s. Anna was listed in the 1926 city directory as owning the house at 713 St. Olaf Ave., and in 1930,

she lived there with daughter Amanda and rented rooms to lodgers. Anna died in 1944, and Amanda and Emma continued to live in the house through the 1950s. Amanda died in 1961, and Emma died in 1979. Linda said it was Emma who sold the house to her parents, and who kept the dining room's crystal chandelier for her new place.

Whether Amanda and Emma used the velocipede themselves is known, but Linda said it's still in excellent working condition.

— Joy Riggs





Historic Brass Society Early Brass Festival Conference

July 31-August 1, 2026

Scott Muntefering, EBF Conference Host • Paul Niemisto, Local Host • Sandy Coffin, HBS Event Coordinator

Paper presentations related to any aspect of early brass or brass bands – including but not limited to band history, pedagogy, repertoire, performance practice, and biographical/historical information.

EBF Sessions will be in the beautiful 19th Century Northfield Train Depot

Suggested nearby housing: Country Inn & Suites by Radisson,
www.choicehotels.com/minnesota/northfield/country-inn-suites-hotels/mn280
 (Walking distance to Train Depot)

\$50 EBF Registration for paid HBS members (\$35 HBS Student Member)

\$60 for non-HBS members (\$45 non-HBS Student)

Non-HBS members may join and pay the HBS Member registration rate.

VBF attendees may visit individual sessions free.

<https://historicbrass.regfox.com/early-brass-festival-2026>

Friday, July 31

9:00 a.m. Registration – Northfield Depot
 (204 W. Third Street)

Bands in America (Elisa Koehler, Moderator)

- 9:15 a.m.** Michael O'Connor – *The Shadow Repertoire of the Dodworth Cornet Band*
- 9:45 a.m.** Scott Muntefering – *The Corn Palace Festival and the Golden Age of Bands (1910, 1916-1918)*
- 10:15 a.m.** Bryan Proksch – *Bands and the Passing of an Era in The Twilight Zone*
- 10:45 a.m.** Break
- 11:00 a.m.** Patricia Backhaus – *An Adamless Garden of Musical Eves*
- 11:30 a.m.** Patrick Hennessey – *Heinrich Berger: Prussian Son – “Father of Hawaiian Music”*

Saturday, August 1, 9:45-11:45 a.m.

Instruments and Makers (Scott Muntefering, Moderator)

- 9:45 a.m.** Bruce Gleason – *Cavalry Trumpeters and Kettledrums*
- 10:15 a.m.** Robert Apple – *A Closer Look at John F. Stratton's German Music Instrument Factories (1866-1880)*
- 10:45 a.m.** George Foreman – *The Remarkable Journey of No. 3244*
- 11:15 a.m.** John Nordell – *Ralph Kenny and The Kenny Band Instrument Company of Minneapolis*

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..... 2026 Festival Schedule

Special Performances

DAY 1: THURSDAY – JULY 30

Benedictine Living Community: 2030 North Avenue

2:00 p.m. Moritz & Co.

The Grand Event Center: 316 Washington Street
Dinner menu available 5:00-7:00 p.m.

6:00 p.m. Newberry's Victorian Cornet Band

7:30 p.m. Moritz & Co.

Loon Liquors: 115 5th Street West

7:00 p.m. Original Drachenfelser Musikanten

DAY 2: FRIDAY – JULY 31

Northfield Public Library: 210 Washington Street

11:00 a.m. WindWorks Woodwind Quintet

3:00 p.m. WindWorks Woodwind Quintet

Up & Down Division Street

12:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

The Alphorns (short popup concerts)

FiftyNorth: 1651 Jefferson Parkway

2:00 p.m. Moritz & Co.

Millstream Commons: 210 8th Street West

2:00 p.m. Original Drachenfelser Musikanten

Tanzenwald Brewing: 103 Highway 3 North

5:00 p.m. Ameriikan Poijat

Armory Square Event Center: 519 Division Street South
Doors open at 5:00 p.m.

6:00 p.m. Doughboy Foundation's American Expeditionary Forces Headquarters Band

7:00 p.m. Moritz & Co.

8:00 p.m. Newberry's Victorian Cornet Band

Imminent Brewing: 519 Division Street South

7:00 p.m. Original Drachenfelser Musikanten

VFW Hall: 516 Division Street South

7:00 p.m. Tom Baker's Mardi Gras Brass

DAY 3: SATURDAY – AUGUST 1

Up & Down Division Street

12:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

The Alphorns (short popup concerts)

The Bald Spot at Carleton College: 1 North College Street
(just north of Skinner Memorial Chapel)

2:00 p.m. Vintage Base Ball Game: The St. Croix Base Ball Club vs. The Rochester Roosters
Music provided by RAVE Brass

VFW Hall: 516 Division Street South

7:00 p.m. Original Drachenfelser Musikanten

This schedule is subject to change at any time. In the event of severe weather, events may be postponed, moved or cancelled to insure the safety of the audience and the musicians.

The rain location for the Bridge Square Stage is Northfield Middle School Auditorium, 2200 Division St. South. The rain location for Central Park Stage is First UCC, 300 Union St.

Please check the VBF website (VintageBandFestival.org) or visit or call VBF Information Tent in Bridge Square (507-581-2360) for any updates.

Bridge Square Stage

DAY 1: THURSDAY – JULY 30

4:00 p.m. Original Drachenfelser Musikanten

5:00 p.m. The Freier Department

6:30 p.m. K-Libre24

8:00 p.m. McNasty Brass Band

DAY 2: FRIDAY – JULY 31

2:00 p.m. Ameriikan Poijat

3:00 p.m. Dodworth Saxhorn Band

4:00 p.m. Independent Silver Band

5:00 p.m. Newberry's Victorian Cornet Band

6:30 p.m. La Clave Orchestra

8:00 p.m. Brass Messengers

DAY 3: SATURDAY – AUGUST 1

9:00 a.m. New Prague Area Community Band

10:00 a.m. Sheldon Theatre Brass Band

11:00 a.m. Jack Brass Band

12:00 p.m. Battle of the Bands on the Downtown Cannon River Riverwalk

2:00 p.m. Minnesota State Band

3:00 p.m. 1st Brigade Band

4:00 p.m. Doughboy Foundation's American Expeditionary Forces Headquarters Band

5:00 p.m. Moritz & Co.

6:30 p.m. Salsa del Soul

8:30 p.m. Minnesota Jazz Orchestra

10:00 p.m. FIREWORKS!

DAY 4: SUNDAY – AUGUST 2

12:00 p.m. Lake Wobegon© Brass Band

1:00 p.m. Bavarian Musikmeisters

2:00 p.m. Brian Boru Irish Pipe Band

3:00 p.m. Twin Cities Trumpet Ensemble

4:00 p.m. Brio Brass

5:00 p.m. Southside Aces

Central Park Stage

DAY 1: THURSDAY – JULY 30

No Music

DAY 2: FRIDAY – JULY 31

9:45 a.m. *Music and Democracy: Living History in America*

10:00 a.m. Imnizaska Drum Group

10:45 a.m. Dodworth Saxhorn Band

11:30 a.m. Northfield Suffragist Singers

11:45 a.m. Doughboy Foundation's American Expeditionary Forces Headquarters Band

12:15 p.m. Helen Forsythe and Cliff Martin

1:00 p.m. All-Ages Bike Parade

1:30 p.m. Brass Solidarity

DAY 3: SATURDAY, AUGUST 1

12:30 p.m. Dirty Shorts Brass Band

1:30 p.m. Original Drachenfelser Musikanten

2:30 p.m. Dodworth Saxhorn Band

3:30 p.m. Newberry's Victorian Cornet Band

4:30 p.m. Independent Silver Band

DAY 4: SUNDAY, AUGUST 2

12:30 p.m. 1st Brigade Band

1:30 p.m. Century Brass

2:30 p.m. Twin Cities Brass Band

3:30 p.m. Moritz & Co.

Sunday Church Services

DAY 4: SUNDAY, AUGUST 2

Bethel Lutheran Church: 1321 North Avenue

8:30 a.m. 1st Brigade Band

Trinity Lutheran Church: 803 Winona Street South

9:00 a.m. Independent Silver Band

St. Peter's Lutheran Church: 418 Sumner Street East

9:00 a.m. American Expeditionary Forces Headquarters Band

St. John's Lutheran Church: 500 West Third Street

9:30 a.m. Newberry's Victorian Cornet Band

United Methodist Church: 1401 Maple Street South

9:30 a.m. Moritz & Co.

First United Church of Christ: 300 Union Street South

10:30 a.m. Dodworth Saxhorn Band

All Saints Episcopal Church: 419 Washington Street South

10:30 a.m. Original Drachenfelser Musikanten

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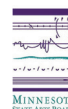
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Without these people...

there would be no Vintage Band Festival. The success of the festivals in past years built up a considerable appetite in the community to stage more festivals. Many capable volunteers have come forward each year to make that possible. Listed below are the active participants in 2026 who all should be proud of their efforts; thank them when you see them. We also extend our thanks to other volunteers who have come forward to help since we put together this program – we will acknowledge them later on our website. A particularly big thanks to the Minnesota State Arts Board and the Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council for their continuing support.

A sincere thank you from Artistic Director, Paul Niemisto

The Vintage Band Festival Fund

In 2024 the Vintage Band Festival board of directors launched The Vintage Band Festival Fund. This fund is part of the Northfield Area Fund, a community fund that is under the auspices of a local non-profit organization called Northfield Shares.

The intent for the Vintage Band Festival Fund (VBF Fund) is that it be a place where donors may wish to give a legacy gift to insure that Vintage Band Festival will be able to present live brass and wind band music many years into the future. Our organization will continue to fundraise annually to support the next scheduled festival, but we also need to fundraise with a longer timeline in mind.

Legacy gifts can be made using retirement plan assets. They can also be part of a trust or a named beneficiary when planning one's estate. They can simply be one-time gifts to honor someone's memory.

We are humbled and extremely grateful to board member Jan Stevens for her generous gift that enabled the VBF Fund to be created. We also wish to acknowledge the Wenger Foundation for their timely gift that effectively doubled the size of the VBF Fund at its launch.

Donations to the Vintage Band Festival Fund can be made online at www.vintagebandfestival.org
or by check sent to **Northfield Shares, 1258 Water Street N., Northfield MN 55057.**
Please write **Vintage Band Festival Fund** on the memo line of the check.

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A special thanks to all of our program supporters.

For a complete list, see page 32.

Bridge Chamber Music Festival

2026 • NORTHFIELD, MINNESOTA

Stringwood Young Artist Concert

Friday, August 21, 7:00 p.m.
Urness Recital Hall, St. Olaf College, Northfield

Sarah Reich, Tap Dancer, with Jazz Ensemble

Saturday, August 22, 7:00 p.m.
The Lion's Pause, St. Olaf College, Northfield

Laurie Melting Stegner and the Bow, Strings and Contentment String Quartet

Wednesday, August 26, 3:30 p.m.
FiftyNorth, Northfield

If I Loved You, with vocalists Marita Stryker and Wesley Dunnagan and pianist Martha Fischer

Wednesday, August 26, 7:00 p.m.
Bethel Lutheran Church, Northfield

The Violin and Jazz, with Laurie Melting Stegner and Friends

Thursday, August 27, 3:30 p.m.
Northfield Retirement Community, Northfield

Young Artist Concert, with collaborative pianist Alex Woods

Thursday, August 27, 7:00 p.m.
St. John's Lutheran Church, Northfield

Sacred Echoes: Songs of Healing and Hope, Artaria String Quartet with clarinetist Aileen Razez

Friday, August 28, 7:00 p.m.
Carleton College, Northfield



This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts & cultural heritage fund.

For more information, visit
www.bridgechambermusicfestival.com

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Learning on the Job

Former interns reflect on festival experience

As we celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Vintage Band Festival, we remain grateful to all the paid workers and volunteers who have helped us over the years. This includes the St. Olaf College student interns who assisted us in the planning and execution of each VBF from 2010 through 2019. Each festival paired two students with varying musical backgrounds with the board and

volunteers to form a fantastic team dedicated to doing everything required to bring the music to the audience. The intern stipends were funded by a grant from the Collaborative Undergraduate Research and Inquiry (CURI) program, and their efforts were invaluable to our early success as a young nonprofit organization.

HERE ARE REMEMBRANCES FROM A FEW OF THOSE INTERNS:

"We did so much work leading up to the VBF weekend! It got real when we finally moved our offices into the local printing company that was our home base that year. I also recall in 2013 we tried a kind of battle of the bands for the first time or one of the first times. So many musicians gathered on the bridge over the Cannon River was a sight and sound to behold!"

– Mitch Evett

Summer 2013 Intern and 2014 St. Olaf Graduate

Mitch now teaches band and orchestra and piano at Rio Americano High School in Sacramento, California.

"I enjoyed learning from the Board, planning logistics with all of the bands and vendors, and getting to hear all of the live music on the day of the festival. I learned a lot about balancing multiple priorities at once, event planning, and quick problem solving. These are all skills that have definitely come in handy throughout my career so far!"

– Rachel Gaul

Summer 2015 Intern and 2016 St. Olaf Graduate

Rachel now works as an associate executive director with the Minneapolis-based company Management HQ, providing management services for nonprofit organizations around the world.

"I loved the puzzle aspect of my VBF internship, trying to figure out how to coordinate all of the bands and musicians and working with local businesses. However, my absolute favorite memory is standing in the information booth, answering questions, listening to fantastic music, and seeing all of my hard work unfold. It was incredible to see it all finally come together and be able to enjoy the great music with a great crowd of people."

– Mickaylie Bade Boldenow

Summer 2019 Intern and 2020 St. Olaf Graduate

Mickaylie now works as an event planner at St. Olaf College.



Mickaylie Bade Boldenow, left,
with fellow 2019 intern Landry Forrest



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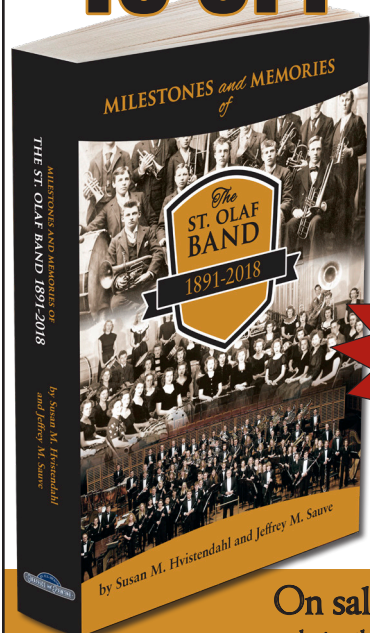


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<i>The Entertainment Guide</i>	IBC
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Used-A-Bit Shoppe.....	C1

PLACES OF WORSHIP – PAGE 25

Bethel Lutheran Church • First United Church of Christ
Trinity Lutheran Church

In Memoriam

Laurie Cowles, loyal donor and community activist

Vince Granquist, festival friend and raconteur

Kathleen Vang, generous donor and VBF friend

Carol Gengenbach, supporter and community partner

Noel Stratmoen, donor, volunteer, and problem solver

William Riggs, consummate musician and beloved teacher

David Perez, patient observer and photographer extraordinaire

Nancy Child, community volunteer and loyal donor

Randall Knox, military veteran and youth mentor

Vintage Band Festival 2026 is dedicated to their memory.

Vintage Band Festival Commemoratives

Available at the Bridge Square Information Tent during the festival.

T-Shirts.....	\$25
Hats.....	\$25
20th Anniversary Pins.....	\$5
Vintage CDs.....	\$5

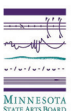
The Legacy Amendment and Vintage Band Festival

In 2008, Minnesota's voters passed the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment (Legacy Amendment) to the Minnesota State Constitution to: protect drinking water sources; to protect, enhance, and restore wetlands, prairies, forests, and fish, game, and wildlife habitat; to preserve arts and cultural heritage; to support parks and trails; and to protect, enhance, and restore lakes, rivers, streams, and groundwater. The funding is gathered through a very small percentage of Minnesota sales tax: 3/8 of 1%. 20% of these funds are distributed to the arts.

Vintage Band Festival has benefited greatly from these funds as a grantee of the Minnesota State Arts Board and also the Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council. Many other local arts organizations in Northfield and southern Minnesota have been recipients of grants provided by this funding as well. If this is important to you as a Minnesota resident, please thank your elected representatives and ask them to continue renewing this thoughtful and forward-looking legislation.

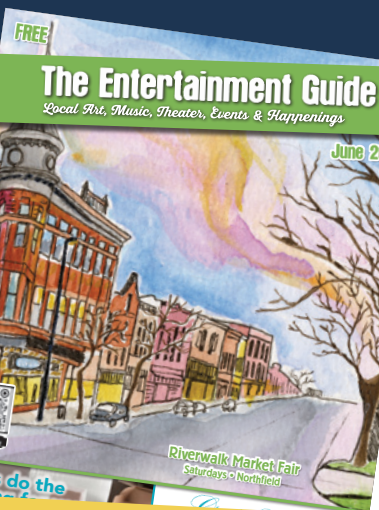
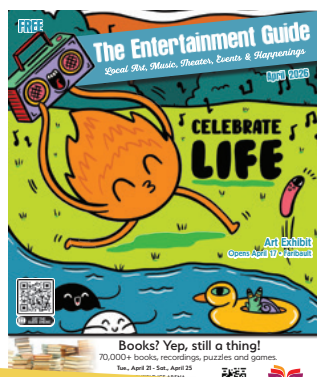


This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through grants from the Minnesota State Arts Board and the Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.



The Entertainment Guide

..... Local Art, Music, Theater, Events & Happenings



THE source for Happenings in Southern Minnesota

VIEWABLE ON YOUR COMPUTER, PHONE OR TABLET...



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entertainmentguidemn.com

A photograph of a family in a home. An adult is lifting a young girl who is holding a stuffed animal. Another child is in the background. The scene is warm and domestic.

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